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Chattanooga, Tenn

May the 16th, 1864

Some how, my dear Lissie, it is Monday I write you It is always so I [?] to say. Sunday the proper & usual time is superceeded. How are you [?] & how have you been since I heard from you last & Have you [?] your house [cleaning?] yet. You are in school again- are you happy? I wish I could see you now awhile. It is but just after 4 & you have not yet left the school house- I will come if you wish- Now will you grant me

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with a sweet smile & caring kiss? Ah, Lissie, would you? Since we [persist?] more than half in your age/eyes no womans lips never touched mine- your last kiss still lingers where you left it & will until you displace it with another- when will that be? Sooner is better but how soon, how [?] When will come the [?] [?]- you & I will meet & kiss as of [?] day? My own dear Lissie. We will not appreciate those happy privileges [?] I used to [?] you so & my [?] [?] not have been for happiness there we [?] [?]

I wrote a friend of mine in [?] a week ago [?] [?] [what he would pay if I'll come and work for him through July & August.. If it offers enough I'll go there. I shall not return untill I've seen you. I get more & have been getting 3 dollars per day for the last 3 months- I shall not feel like leaving such a institution for a [?] [?] [?] inasmuch as my present pay will continue as [?] us I have a mind to [?] [?] the [circumstances?]. I would rather take a little less & be where I could see you once in a while- It will be warm & unhealthy here soon- I am not exactly well now & [?] [?] will only make me worse. My old disease & I greatly fear the one [?] will [?] up my [?] in this [?] [?] [?] [?] attack and me. This Chronic Diarehea I shall be obliged to submit myself to the [?] of Dr. Greenbridge again I guess.

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I must try to see you before the year is out. Will you be [?] Tell me if you would like for me to come any time. It is ordered so says Rumor [?]- Tht we are [?] or the [?] "front" I just hear this. I guess it is not true. IF such a thing should be I will [?] York State [?] Our troops have taken Dalton & will even be to Rome & Atlanta [?] There are rivers [?] [?] bridges to build somewhere between Dalton & [?]-

We may be called upon to build them subject as we are to military orders. I don't much care - All I want is my present supply of Breen [?] Books to continue- As soon as I hear what kind of an offer I get from home I'll tell you. If I come of course I can not be kept from you [] I shall be in Byrense [?] by July 4th 1864- Wouldn't it be cute? You, dear girl, could such a thing happen? When I left you in the cars at Chicago [?] [?] I little dreamed of being [?] in cares [?] 20 days. It may be that I come as suddenly as I went. Oh Lissie, dear Lissie, I am[?] happy to think we may meet again so soon- oh you dear girl, can it be? Why how can it? My own dear dear girl, in anticipation, oh how happy when come & let me kiss you [?] come & I'll [?] [?] you [?] [?]. I do want to see you & oh Lissie to have you kiss me again. [?] [?] & at me. Yours Evan